

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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Conserving, Enhancing and Protecting Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoors Heritage since 1937.



November 8, 2012

The Honorable Senator Tom Casperson, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes
RE: Support of Senate Bill 1350

Dear Chairman Casperson and members of the committee,

The wolf is one of the great wildlife recovery stories of our generation. What was once a nearly extinct species in Michigan now boasts a healthy and robust population of well over 700 wolves throughout the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula. These conservatively estimated numbers are well over the target recovery goal of 200 that was put in place when the wolf was listed as an endangered species over three decades ago. With the rising population of wolves comes the need for responsible and sustainable management.

The wolf population in Michigan is spread across the entire northern part of the state, and is no longer contained to one specific region. Management practices should be implemented on a statewide basis rather than case by case, reflecting the growing and wide ranging wolf populations. With the rising numbers of wolves, a case by case management approach will quickly become inefficient.

MUCC supports Senate Bill 1350, which would place wolves on the list of games species in Michigan. We feel strongly that this is a step in the right direction for good management practices and adding wolves as a game species falls under the well-established North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. This model has proven to be the most successful tool for sustainable and science-based management by incorporating hunting and trapping as management practices.

MUCC considers S.B. 1350 a necessary and critical step to advance sustainable management of wolves in Michigan. We thank you for considering this bill and urge its passage.

Sincerely,

Erin McDonough
Executive Director